

U.S.S.N.: 10/710,444

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04925 (LC 0160 PUS)

Amendment To The Abstract:

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] A mechanical handle switch assembly (14) ("switch assembly") is provided for actuating a vehicle-based system (12). The switch assembly (14) includes a door handle (28), which is coupled to a vehicle door (26) and utilized for actuation by a user. This door handle (28) is movable a predetermined travel distance, which includes a switch-triggering distance for actuating the vehicle-based system (12) and an unlatching distance for unlatching the vehicle door (26). The door handle (28) is coupled to a drive train mechanism (34) and utilized for actuating the drive train mechanism (34). The drive train mechanism (34) is operatively coupled to a switch device (18) for selectively closing the switch device (18) and actuating the vehicle-based system (12). The switch assembly (14) further includes a ~~dampening~~ damping mechanism (56) for slowing movement of the door handle (28) and increasing available processing time for the vehicle-based system (12)